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CA Senate District 26

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For Immediate Release
September 25, 2007

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**Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair-elect of the Legislative Black Caucus,
establishes fellowship program in the names of former Speaker Willie L. Brown Jr.
and Assemblyman Mervyn M. Dymally**

It's legacy time for two storied African American political figures as Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair-elect of the California Legislative Black Caucus (LBC), announces the establishment of the Brown/Dymally Fellowship Program in recognition of former Assembly Speaker Willie L. Brown Jr. and Assemblyman Mervyn M. Dymally.

"These two legislators blazed paths for African American public officials in the state legislature and were a *tour de force* in California politics, making history as firsts, while serving the needs of their constituents and all Californians," Ridley-Thomas said. "They deserve to be remembered and honored."

Senator Ridley-Thomas announced the fellowships to a receptive audience of elected officials and supporters at the annual Black Caucus Seminar held in Santa Barbara last week.

"It is crucial that we identify and develop future political leaders in the African American community," said Phyllis Marshall, of Manatt, Phelps and Phillips. "And what better way to honor the illustrious careers of Assemblyman Dymally and Speaker Willie Brown, than to create an internship program to help young African Americans who want to enter politics."

Tommy Ross, Vice-President of Southern California Edison, had this to say of the fellowships: "Senator Ridley-Thomas' naming of the internship programs after these historic figures and committing the initial funding is a generous gesture. It will be an honor for future interns to participate in these programs and learn about the legislative process."

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